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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On 16 Jan. 2007

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Malwida Cozart

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 021167-001100US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Balint *et al.*

Application No.: 10/677,131

Filed: September 30, 2003

For: METHODS FOR AFFINITY  
MATURATION

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 3895

Examiner: Teresa D. Wessendorf

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1639

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION  
REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2006, please enter the following remarks. Enclosed herewith is a petition with fee authorization for a one-month extension of time.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I. The claims currently under examination that read on the elected species are claims 33, 35-37, 39, 48, 50-52, 54, 63, 64, 66, and 67.

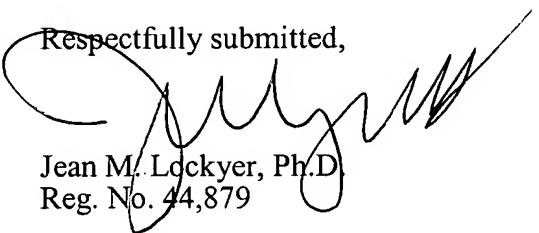
Applicants note that the current Office Action contends that claims 33, 48, and 63-68 are pending (Office Action Summary). However, claims 35-37, 39, 50-52, and 54 are also under examination (*see*, the Office Action dated February 23, 2006 and Applicants' response filed August 29, 2006).

Furthermore, Applicants again respectfully request reconsideration of the withdrawal of claims 42, 43, 44, 45, 58, 59, and 60 as non-elected species for reasons explained at page 8 of Applicants' August 29, 2006 response.

The foregoing election is made with traverse. As the Examiner noted, claims 33 and 48 are generic. Applicants are entitled to examination of the claims that were filed ("it is improper for the Office to refuse to examine that which applicant regards as their invention..." MPEP § 803.02, cited regarding Markush claims). The Patent Office has provided procedures for examination of generic claims. Applicants urge that the proper restriction is a species election or a restriction requirement that designates claims 33 and 48 as generic linking claims. Applicants therefore request reconsideration of the group election requirement.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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